

Defense Department "fully supports the development of wind farms"

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## **DoD's wind farm report leaves questions**

*Developers hoped for clearer statement*



The Defense Department on Thursday released a congressionally mandated report that said construction of wind farms should proceed as long as the turbines don't interfere with military radar. But wind energy advocates said it left many questions unanswered.

The Defense Department "fully supports the development of wind farms and other sources of renewable energy, so long as the safety of our airspace

is not compromised," Army Lt. Col. Brian Maka, a department spokesman, said in releasing the report.

## **FAA working with developers to achieve mutually satisfactory solutions**

By working with the Federal Aviation Administration to evaluate wind farm proposals on a case-by-case basis, "we ensure that all mitigation techniques are explored and developers have the greatest opportunity to build the projects without delay, and without impact to our air defense radar," Maka said. "We will continue to support FAA in their practice of working with developers to achieve mutually satisfactory solutions."

The FAA recently approved 614 applications for individual wind turbines that total more than 1,000 megawatts of new wind energy, enough to power about 250,000 homes, according to the American Wind Energy Association...

The *Daily Journal*, Kankakee, IL, story ended by reporting, "Decades of experience tell us that wind and radar can co-exist," said Randall Swisher, the association's executive director, who complained that the report is incomplete and gives only brief mention of existing ways to mitigate radar interference by turbines.

Congress required the study in an amendment by Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner, R-Va., to the fiscal 2006 defense authorization bill. Some wind power proponents suggested he inserted the provision to try to block a controversial project off Cape Cod, Mass. Warner, who has denied that assertion, had no immediate comment on the report, which called for a more comprehensive analysis of the Cape Cod project...